

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 00893 242150Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /067 W

-----242154 033240 /63

P R 242013Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2402

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS MANAGUA 0893

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, NU

SUBJECT: FSLN TRIAL VERDICT: 110 GUILTY, 1 INNOCENT

1. FEBRUARY 23, AFTER A MARATHON 30 HOUR SESSION OF FINAL PLEASE AND FIVE HOURS OF DELIBERATION, THE COUNCIL OF WAR HANDED DOWN VERDICTS ON THE 111 FSLN INDICTEES. ONLY ONE, WHO RESIDES IN SWITZERLAND, WAS FOUND INNOCENT. TEN OTHERS WERE FOUND GUILTY BUT WITH DIMINISHED SERIOUSNESS. THESE TEN, AMONG WHOM IS INCLUDED THE COSTA RICAN INDICTEE, LEANA BENAVIDES, ARE EXPECTED TO BE FREED BEFORE THE END OF NEXT WEEK ON THE BASIS OF TIME ALREADY SERVED IN DETENTION. SENTENCES WILL BE ANNOUNCED TOMORROW.

2. SEVEN INDICTEES WERE FOUND GUILTY OF NUMEROUS CHARGES INCLUDING ASSAULT, ROBBERY, BREAKING AND ENTERING, HOMICIDE AND ASSASSINATION AS A RESULT OF PARTICIPATION IN THE DECEMBER 1974 FSLN TERRORIST ATTACK ON A MANAGUA RESIDENCE WHICH RESULTED IN THE IMPOSITION OF THE MARTIAL LAW PROCEEDINGS. THIRTEEN OTHERS WERE FOUND GUILTY OF ROBBERY, ASSASSINATION, OR HOMICIDE CHARGES RESULTING FROM FSLN ACTIVITIES. THE GUILTY CHARGES AGAINST THE REMAINDER OF INDICTEES ARE NOT SPECIFIED BUT PRESUMABLY ARE BASED ON AIDING AND ABETTING BE-
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FORE OR AFTER THE FACT THE OTHERS WHO WERE FOUND GUILTY OF SPECIFIED CRIMES.

3. THE CONCLUSION OF THE FSLN TRIALS WAS THE PRECONDITION ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT SOMOZA FOR TERMINATING MARTIAL LAW AND CENSORSHIP. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RETURN TO NORMAL CIVIL LAW CONDITIONS IS EXPECTED IMMINENTLY.

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Message Attributes

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